

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A system for providing privacy of user identity and characteristics in a communication system, comprising:

a transceiver, comprising:

a processor for generating a public key and a private key associated with a transceiver;

a transmitter, coupled to said processor, for transmitting said public key to a communication device;

a receiver, coupled to said processor, for receiving one or more ~~[[aa]]~~ initial messages from said wireless communication device, wherein at least a portion of said one or more initial message~~[{-}]~~s is encrypted using said public key;

a decryption processor for decrypting said portion of said one or more initial messages using said private key;

said communication device comprising:

a second receiver for receiving said public key from said transceiver;

a second processor for encrypting at least a portion of said one or more initial messages with said public key; and

a second transmitter for transmitting said one or more encrypted initial messages to said transceiver.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said portion of said one or more initial messages comprises an identification of said communication device.

Claims 20-23 (Cancelled)

24. (New) A method for providing privacy of user identity and characteristics in a communication system, comprising:

on a transceiver side:

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generating a public key and a private key associated with a transceiver;  
transmitting said public key to a communication device;  
receiving one or more initial messages from said wireless communication device, wherein at least a portion of said one or more initial messages is encrypted using said public key;  
decrypting said portion of said one or more initial messages using said private key;  
on said communication device side:  
receiving said public key from said transceiver;  
encrypting at least a portion of said one or more initial messages with said public key; and  
transmitting said one or more encrypted initial messages to said transceiver.

25. (New) An apparatus for providing privacy of user identity and characteristics in a communication system, comprising:

a transceiver, comprising:  
means for generating a public key and a private key associated with a transceiver;  
means for transmitting said public key to a communication device;  
means for receiving one or more initial messages from said wireless communication device, wherein at least a portion of said one or more initial messages is encrypted using said public key;  
means for decrypting said portion of said one or more initial messages using said private key;  
the communication device comprising:  
means for receiving said public key from said transceiver;  
means for encrypting at least a portion of said one or more initial messages with said public key; and  
means for transmitting said one or more encrypted initial messages to said transceiver.

26. (New) A computer-readable medium embodying means for implementing a method for providing privacy of user identity and characteristics in a communication system, the method comprising:

on a transceiver side:  
generating a public key and a private key associated with a transceiver;

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transmitting said public key to a communication device;  
receiving one or more initial messages from said wireless communication device, wherein  
at least a portion of said one or more initial message s is encrypted using said public key;  
decrypting said portion of said one or more initial messages using said private key;  
on said communication device side:  
receiving said public key from said transceiver;  
encrypting at least a portion of said one or more initial messages with said public key; and  
transmitting said one or more encrypted initial messages to said transceiver.